

Message Text

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SUBJ: SED ORGAN PRAISES FRG/GDR AGREEMENTS - AND CONDEMNS
WEST GERMAN "SLANDER CAMPAIGN"

REF: BERLIN 6919

1. THE FRG/GDR TRANSIT AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 19
RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE AS "MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS" AND
AN "ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE" IN AN EDITORIAL OF NEUES
DEUTSCHLAND ON DECEMBER 22. IN THE SAME PLACE, IT IS
NOTED WITH REGRET THAT THE "WILD, BAITING
CAMPAIGN" (HETZKAMPAGNE) AGAINST THE GDR BY THE WEST
GERMAN CDU/CSU AND THE AUTHOR OF THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE ON
ALLEGED "FORCED ADOPTION" IN THE GDR, SPOILED THE
ATMOSPHERE FOR CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENTS. THE ND
EDITORIAL ALSO SEVERELY CRITICIZES FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS
FOR PRAISING BAVARIAN MINISTER PRESIDENT GOPPEL'S
CANCELLATION OF A MEETING WITH GDR REPRESENTATIVE KOHL AS
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A "COURAGEOUS" ACT.

2. THE MAIN THEMES OF THE EDITORIAL, WHICH ARE EACH REPEATED TWICE IN THE TEXT ARE:

A) THE CONCLUSION OF THESE AGREEMENTS WITH THE FRG IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND BERLIN SINCE AT THE SAME TIME THE TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING CONCLUDED, A SET OF DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE BERLIN SENAT WAS BEING SIGNED.

B) DESPITE THE CONTINUED BAITING OF THE GDR THROUGH PUBLICITY IN WEST GERMANY OVER THE ALLEGED MATTER OF "FORCED ADOPTION", THE GDR HAS SHOWN THAT IT WISHES TO PURSUE A POLICY OF DETENTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE BY MAKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG "USEFUL AND CONSEQUENTIAL" (NUETZLICH UND ERGEBNISREICH).

3. COMMENT: BY ITS EMPHASIS UPON THE "REASONABLENESS" OF THE GDR IN CONCLUDING THESE AGREEMENTS, THE ND EDITORIAL MANAGES TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR OVERSOME CERTAIN STRAINS IN THE GDR/FRG RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WAS NEEDED AND IMPORTANT FOR THE WELFARE OF BOTH COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE 1975 GDR/SOVIET TREATY, THE EMPHASIS UPON THE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIES BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE BERLIN SENAT APPEARS TO BE AN ALLUSION TO ARTICLE 7 OF THE TREATY WHICH STATES THAT SUCH TIES ARE TO BE FOSTERED. GDR GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS AND THE CDU/CSU ARE NEITHER NEW NOR PARTICULARLY CREDIBLE, EVEN FOR A GDR AUDIENCE. GROVE

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